

series of fine ^{on walls} coats, high handsomely finished,
& each containing some glass - architecture, armor,
inlaid work, or enamel, China of glass, jewellery,
works in metals, embroideries, eastern & Japanese,
& ancient - specimens of stained glass of different
schools & periods, long galleries of food & its chemi-
cal constituents & various preparations of foods, then
everything used in teaching, &c. &c. Up stairs find
galleries of paintings, admirable water-colour sketches,
especially Turner's, & oil paintings of his, & of Land-
seers such inimitable dogs, & many others - And
one gallery up stairs, of which the finish was in
tiles & porcelain, porcelain columns &c. such suc-
perb & beautiful English China & crockery - ware -
It quite rivals the French, & I think in private
families one sees more pretty & more decorated
China than with us - English has wonderfully
developed since 1851 - Besides all the treasures
they have themselves, people tend to be exhibited
all sorts of fine & beautiful things - Caskets & en-
amels, silver & gold ornaments, exquisite ivory
carvings, & precious treasures of all kinds - Whole
collections of Venetian glass, &c. &c. - At any rate they
are kept in a very safe place for their owners -
Then there are on the ground floor admirable repasts

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New - Oct. 28 - '64

My dear Sue,

I believe the last I wrote, we
were back in New from our Edinburgh trip, &
the others had gone Sunday & near Dean Stanley
preach - Monday they passed the day at the
Crystal Palace; & Tuesday Dr. Gray had made an
engagement for us all to lunch at Mrs. Mrs. Flower's,
who meantime had returned much better from
his father's, & in the afternoon he was to show us
the fine Museum of the College of Surgeons, of which
he is Curator - He had a very pleasant lunch,
there ^{are three} ~~are~~ nice little girls, the boy away at
school, & Mrs. Flower's mother, the widow of Ad-
miral Smyth, a very bright, old lady who has
seen a deal of the world, & was chief secretary
& assistant to her husband, who was also a very
clever man, & made his way from sailor-boy to
Admiral - Mrs. Flower told me her father & mother
lived together for 50 years, & she was the youngest
of 13 children - The Museum is of Comparative
Anatomy & wonderfully complete & well-arranged -
Mr. Flower was very kind in showing & explaining,
took especially feet & hands, & showed a series

from man downwards, how the fingers became one
long one other heel was quite up in the leg & the
fingers disappeared into little knots. Then there
were cases of breast-bones & scull & all those things
so interesting, & great skeletons of whales & man-
months down to the smallest beasts. All the new
mountings are so arranged they can take to pieces
& be put together again with merely drawing out or
putting back pins. A great advantage to the student.
Wednesday Dr. Gray & I went up to dine with Mr.
& Mrs. Bentham, going up in a fly with Dr. &
Mrs. Hooker, & coming down at 10 o'clock. We
had a pleasant, sociable time, & I always enjoy
seeing Mrs. Bentham again. The first & C. passed
the day at the Kensington Museum. Thursday
I kept quiet & so I did Friday, though Miss Julia
van came Friday Aft. & looked over our photographs.
She is always so bright & agreeable! One afternoon
I went to call on Mrs. Hooker & met her just coming
to see us. So we walked in the garden together,
& I went through the lovely tropical ferns again.
Saturday we had planned going to London again
to take a fly from here quite grand, & go in for at-
tention & make calls, & do some shopping, but the sky
poured down. We hoped & hoped they might hold

up, but had to give it up & settle ourselves to home
occupations; there is always enough of that, & more
too! Sunday K. had had a cold so we thought a
quiet day better than the exposure of churches,
so Dr. Gray & I went alone to hear Mr. Spurgeon -
were successful & edified. Monday we said
we must go to London & shop, time was getting so
short, & they to be off for a week next day. So we
ordered the fly, though the day was doubtful, it
began to rain before we started. It few more or
more, & my morning was clouded with pity for
the poor driver, who must sit it through, & appa-
ration we should have chosen such a day. It
was not fit to make calls, but we did some shop-
ping, & as we came back at dusk, the rain had
stopped. Tuesday morn. Charles & K. & I were
off for Frome & Whitley & see the Church, &
from there to Wells & Glastonbury, Salisbury,
Winchester & Exeter. Dr. Gray & I had agreed
to meet Miss Julia at the Station at Hammer-
smith, & she drove us in her carriage to Reading-
ton Museum. We had a most interesting morn-
ing. I wish one could give some idea of the
fine building & its numerous contents, embracing
arts of every kind, & such treasures. It is a

ment rooms when you can get anything from a ²
dinner to a cup of tea, & comfortable dressing-rooms,
& one can pass a day there very comfortably—
We went back with Miss Sullivan to Broom House
to lunch, where it is always so pleasant & bright,
& everything so luxurious, & always such a hearty,
cordial welcome. And about 4 she drove us back
in her carriage to New, coming with us for nice talks.
We were to meet Sir Charles & Lady Lyell at aft. tea
at the Hoskier's, so we went in there & found them,
Lady Lyell always so sweet & charming—They
asked us all to lunch there the Sunday we should
go to hear Mr. Martineau. He stayed on after they
were gone on a lively talk with Dr. & Mrs. Hosker
& came back to our quiet little dinner at 7. Don't
we get dissipated? Our usual hour for dining
is 6 1/2—But then one gets into the way of a sub-
stantial lunch—Wednesday was a quiet but a
busy day in the house, & Thursday Dr. Gray & I went
up to make calls & mix a little shopping in—I
was to meet him at the Brit. Museum at one, at
Dr. Gray's—I found, to my great grief, on getting there
that he had been seized with a paralytic stroke
the Monday before, & was still very ill—I had
turned away, when they came after me to bring



Gray, Jane Loring. 1869. "Gray, Jane Oct. 28, 1869 [to Susan M. Jackson]." *Asa and Jane Gray travel correspondence*

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